



Upcoming Public Lectures in Byzantine and Garden and Landscape Studies

“Saint Catherine’s Monastery in the Sinai and Its Hidden Manuscript Treasures”

Claudia Rapp of the University of Vienna

October 1, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.
Dumbarton Oaks Music Room



Saint Catherine’s Monastery, located on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula and fortified with walls under Emperor Justinian in the sixth century, is the oldest Christian monastery in continuous operation. Its art collection and library are home to unique treasures that have been preserved through the ages. Some of the manuscript evidence there has only recently been unlocked with the help of digital technology and the efforts of the [Sinai Palimpsests Project](#), which uses spectral imaging to make legible and identify erased ancient texts.

This lecture will present the current results of the project and explain how they contribute to our understanding of the monastery as a cultural magnet in the Middle Ages.

Please click [here](#) to learn more and to RSVP.

“The Monster in the Garden: Early Modern Landscape Design and the Grotesque”

Luke Morgan of Monash University



October 15, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

The Oak Room, 1700 Wisconsin Avenue NW



Monstrous and grotesque figures appear in many sixteenth-century Italian gardens, notably the Sacro Bosco in Bomarzo. In the past, these figures have been interpreted as expressions of artistic license (*fantasia*), inventiveness and variety of nature, and allusions to classical sources such as Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Monsters feature in early modern discourses ranging from art, literature, and mythology, to natural history and medicine. This lecture proposes that the "period eye" of the early modern garden visitor would have been informed and influenced by ideas of this kind.

Please click [here](#) to learn more and to RSVP.

New Exhibitions

75 Years/75 Objects



To celebrate Dumbarton Oaks' anniversary year, this exhibition presents seventy-five objects from the Dumbarton Oaks Museum's three collections. Arranged in sequences of nine themed, consecutive rotations over the course of nine months, the works on view reflect the significance of the historical anniversary year as well as the ongoing assessment of Mildred and Robert Woods Bliss's collecting passion and appreciation.

The second rotation, entitled *Reconstructing*, is on display beginning October 1, 2015. Things can be said to have biographies. An object with a long life is apt to have been damaged, repaired, divided, reunited, reworked, repurposed, or even augmented. Part of the work of specialists is to reconstruct prior states of a given object based on the evidence of the object itself, the testimony of documents, or related pieces of the puzzle that survive elsewhere.

To read about the rest of the rotations, and to see information about curator-led tours, please visit [our website](#).

Stephens & Catherwood Revisited: Maya Ruins and the Passage of Time

Pre-Columbian Studies announces a unique exhibition in the Orientation and Rare Book galleries that features British artist Frederick Catherwood's illustrations of Maya ruins matched



with composite photographs by Jay A. Frogel of those same sites. The exhibit will be on view through November 30th.

View the online exhibit [here](#).

Above: *Tulum, El Castillo*, by Jay A. Frogel, composite photograph. Superimposed: *Tuloom Front of the Castillo*, engraving from J. L. Stephens, *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan*, vol. 2.

Dumbarton Oaks Welcomes Composer Matthew Aucoin



Dumbarton Oaks is pleased to announce the arrival of Matthew Aucoin, the 2015–16 Early-Career Musician in Residence. Dubbed “opera’s great 25-year-old hope” by the *New York Times*, Aucoin will spend his residency working on composition projects, joining the Dumbarton Oaks research community, and drawing inspiration from the collections and gardens of Dumbarton Oaks.

As the second recipient of the Early-Career Musician Residency, Aucoin joins a new program that lies within a long tradition of music at Dumbarton Oaks. For Director Jan Ziolkowski, a main goal of the residency is to provide time and resources to young composers and musicians who show promise in transmitting traditions of classical music to younger generations. “Part of it is the cost of

attending, part of it is that sitting for a couple of hours without a phone is too much for people who have been shaped in a crucible of distraction,” Ziolkowski suggests of the reasons for declining attendance at classical performances. “All of that said, a lot of it is that traditions need to be tested, stretched, changed, and supplemented. Caroline Shaw and Matt Aucoin are able to accomplish that magic, by creating beauty,” Ziolkowski says.

Find out more about Aucoin and the Early-Career Musician Residency [here](#).

Above: Matthew Aucoin, 2015–16 Early-Career Musician in Residence.

A Residency in Review: Caroline Shaw at Dumbarton Oaks

View the video below to learn more about our inaugural Early-Career Musician Resident, Caroline Shaw.



ICFA Announces Four New Finding Aids



The Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA) is pleased to announce the publication of four new finding aids. These collections document various fieldwork and research projects relating to Roman and late antique pavement mosaics, Byzantine sites in Greece and Turkey, and Coptic architectural sculpture from Oxyrhynchos.

To view the complete PDF finding aids, follow the links below or go to [AtoM@DO](#).

- *Margaret Alexander Papers and Records of the Corpus des Mosaïques de Tunisie, ca. 1940s–2000s* (MS.BZ.001)
- *Edward Eliopoulos Photographs of Mani, Greece, 1958–1980* (PH.BZ.019)
- *Josephine M. Harris Research Papers and Photographs on Coptic Architectural Sculpture from Oxyrhynchos, ca. 1950s–1970s* (MS.BZ.007)
- *Charles Tauss Papers and Records of the Kariye Camii Museum Project, ca. 1955–1990s* (MS.BZ.011)

Friends of Music 2015–16 Schedule



To learn more about the Friends of Music series and to subscribe, please visit [our website](#).

The Knights
October 4 & 5, 2015

Third Practice

November 15 & 16, 2015

Musica Pacifica with David Greenberg
December 6 & 7, 2015

Christopher Taylor
January 10 & 11, 2016

Horszowski Trio
January 31 & February 1, 2016

Dover Quartet
March 6 & 7, 2016

Venice Baroque Orchestra
April 10 & 11, 2016

Above: The concert season opens with The Knights. Photo by Sarah Small.

From the Archives

Dumbarton Oaks Celebrates Its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

This academic year (September 8, 2015, to May 13, 2016), Dumbarton Oaks celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary. Special events throughout the year—lectures, exhibitions, publications, and online initiatives on [our website](#)—will mark the occasion of the November 1st anniversary.

As part of the celebration, the Dumbarton Oaks Archives will publish seventy-five illustrated blog posts throughout the academic year that reminisce about people, places, programs, events, acquisitions, publications, and music associated with Dumbarton Oaks over the past seventy-five years. These [posts](#) were researched in the Dumbarton Oaks Archives and were partly written by two Harvard University summer interns, Dominique Luongo and Katie Borrazzo. The posts will be published beginning on September 7, with one post each day that week. A new post will be published on each Monday and Thursday of the academic year, concluding with the seventy-fifth on May 12th. Happy anniversary!



Please click [here](#) to view the blog post subjects and their dates of publication.

From the Garden Blog



Above: Dahlia 'David Howard,' September 28, 2015. From [What's Blooming at D.O.](#) Photo by Luis Mármol.



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